

I-405 Corridor Program: Purpose and Need

The following statement guided the development of the Selected Alternative for the I-405 Corridor Program:

The need is to improve personal and freight mobility and reduce foreseeable traffic congestion in the corridor that encompasses the I-405 study area from Tukwila to Renton in a manner that is safe, reliable and cost-effective.

The purpose of the proposed action is to provide an efficient, integrated, and multi-modal system of transportation solutions within the corridor that meets the project need in a manner that:

- Provides for maintenance or enhancement of livability for communities within the corridor
- Provides for maintenance or protection or enhancement of fish-bearing streams, and regional environmental values such as continued integrity of the natural environment
- Supports a vigorous state and regional economy by responding to existing and future travel needs
- Accommodates planned regional growth



What are the plans for the Tukwila to Renton Improvement Project?

The Tukwila to Renton Improvement Project extends approximately four miles along I-405 from I-5 to SR 169 and approximately one and a half miles along SR 167 between I-405 and South 180th Street. The Project includes adding one lane in each direction on I-405 between SR 181 and SR 167, two lanes in each direction on I-405 between SR 167 and SR 169, and one lane northbound on SR 167 from South 180th Street to I-405. The Tukwila to Renton Improvement Project also reconfigures the SR 181 and SR 167 interchanges, including improving High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) connections between SR 167 and I-405.

What are the specific proposed Tukwila to Renton Improvement Project elements?

- Adds one lane each direction on I-405 between SR 181 and SR 167
- Adds two lanes each direction on I-405 between SR 167 and SR 169
- Adds one lane northbound on SR 167 from S 180th Street to I-405
- Reconfigures the SR 181 and SR 167 interchanges, including HOV improvements between SR 167 and I-405

What has the environmental process been for this project?

The I-405 Corridor Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) provided a corridor-wide environmental review and Record of Decision (ROD) for improvements to I-405 between I-5 in Tukwila and I-5 in Lynnwood. The ROD was issued in October 2002. The Selected Alternative identified in the ROD provides for widening I-405 by up to two lanes in each direction throughout its 30-mile length. The freeway design includes a buffer separating the general-purpose lanes and the HOV lane, and it provides for implementation of a bus rapid transit system operating in the improved HOV lanes. This project would provide an efficient, integrated, and multi-modal system of transportation solutions to improve the movement of people and goods, reduce foreseeable traffic congestion, and enhance mobility in the project area, which extends from the I-405/I-5 interchange in Tukwila to the I-405 / SR 169 interchange in Renton.

The I-405 Corridor Program EIS and ROD provided that project improvements contained within the Selected Alternative would be re-examined individually or in combination for phased implementation. In keeping with the direction established in the EIS and ROD, the Tukwila to Renton Improvement Project is proposed for evaluation within the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) document that focuses on the project-level effects of the proposed improvements. The description and analysis of the project will be based on a "preliminary footprint" level of design.

The Tukwila to Renton Improvement Project environmental assessment (EA) will address the potential effects to the natural and built environments within the study area, which generally encompass the lands extending approximately one mile on either side of I-405 within the project limits.

What key environmental issues are being studied in the Environmental Assessment?

As identified in the I-405 Corridor Program Environmental Impact Statement, important environmental elements concerning the I-405 Tukwila to Renton Improvement Project include:

Built Environment

- Traffic and Transportation
- Hazardous Materials
- Visual Quality
- Parks and Recreation
- Noise
- Fairness
- Social Elements
- Economics
- Land Use Patterns
- Public Services / Utilities

Natural Environment

- Air Quality
- Fish and Aquatics
- Wetlands
- Water Quality
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Wildlife
- Upland Vegetation
- Floodplains
- Groundwater
- Surface Water

